

REMARKS

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1 and 3-6 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of Claim 2 into Claim 1. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim 3 has been amended consistent with the description in the paragraph bridging pages 23 and 24 of the specification.

Claim 6 has been amended consistent with original Claim 3 and the description in the paragraph bridging pages 23 and 24 of the specification.

No new matter has been added.

At Section No. 4, page 2, of the Action, Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 3 fully satisfies each and every requirement of §112. Accordingly, the withdrawal of this §112 rejection is requested.

At Section No. 6, page 3, of the Action, Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-056112 ("JP '112").

Applicants respectfully traverse this §102 rejection.

Claim 2 was not included in the present rejection. The subject matter of Claim 2 has been incorporated into Claim 1. Accordingly, the withdrawal of this §102 rejection is requested.

At Section No. 7, page 4, of the Action, Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,529,228 to Koide, *et al.* ("Koide").

Applicants respectfully traverse this §102 rejection.

Koide discloses laser-irradiating from a surface of a resin material toward the inside thereof to form holes having a given cross-sectional shape. The structurally modified part of this hole formation is caused by laser ablation. In laser ablation, laser irradiation causes a

decomposition reaction of a resin material, and the resin material is scattered (removed), thereby finishing processing.

Thus, Koide discloses the formation of holes (not through-holes) having a given cross-sectional shape from a surface of a material toward the inside thereof.

Accordingly, the shape of the structurally modified part differs between Koide and the present invention. Therefore, Koide does not disclose the present structurally modified part.

In this regard, the present invention has the characteristic that the plastic object has a structurally modified part in an inner portion thereof, the structurally modified part being formed by focusing the laser in an inner portion of the plastic object. The structurally modified part is formed by an inner modification of a plastic object or an outer modification as a result of receiving an inner modification. It should be noted that the modified part does not connect to the exterior.

Therefore, Koide discloses the formation of holes (not through-holes) having a given cross-sectional shape from a surface of a material toward the inside thereof, whereas the present invention is directed to a structurally modified part having functions, formed in an inner portion of a plastic object.

Although Koide and the present invention both relate to plastic materials processed by laser irradiation, in Koide, laser irradiation is operated so as to form holes, *i.e.*, molding and processing of the plastic object, whereas laser irradiation in the present invention imparts desired functions to the plastic object. The manner of using the laser differs between Koide and the present invention, resulting in different shapes for the structurally modified part of Koide and the structurally modified part of the present invention. Koide, therefore, does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102 rejection of Claims 1-6.

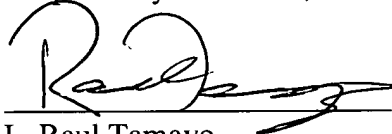
AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/073,907

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Raul Tamayo", written over a horizontal line.

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